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**SF 196** – Traffic Camera Restrictions (LSB1921SV)

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Fiscal Note Version – New

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**Description**

**Senate File 196** prohibits the use of Automated Traffic Enforcement (ATE) devices by the Department of Transportation (DOT). This bill requires local authorities to obtain approval from the DOT prior to the installation of any ATE devices, after a determination by the Department of high-crash or high-risk factors. Any existing ATEs previously approved by the Department, prior to January 1, 2017, will be allowed to continue to operate. All revenues collected from ATEs by any local authority, minus necessary expenses, will be deposited into the local authority's road fund account. This bill requires the DOT to adopt new administrative rules to administer approved ATE devices.

**Background**

Currently eight cities and one county operate 79 speeding and red light ATEs. In January 2014, the Iowa DOT adopted an administrative rule that regulated the use of ATEs on the primary road system. In March 2015, the Department ordered nine traffic cameras removed. Of the nine ordered removed, seven remain in use awaiting rulings on several lawsuits filed by cities against the Iowa DOT. ATE devices operating on secondary or city roads are not impacted by the DOT's existing administrative rules.

**Assumptions**

- The Iowa DOT will be responsible for ongoing evaluation and approval, or denial, of locations for permanent and mobile automated traffic enforcement systems requested by any local authority in Iowa. The Department estimates one additional FTE position will be required to administer the program. The FTE position will be funded from the Highway Division.
- Additional administrative costs will be funded from the Highway Division.
- The DOT currently cannot determine which existing ATE devices, or locations, will be approved. **Table 1** provides data on the number of ATE devices, base cost per violation, vendor's share, and share of local authority's revenues.

**TABLE 1****Estimated Violations and Revenues from ATE Devices  
(As of Feb. 1, 2017)**

<b>City</b>	<b>Fiscal Year</b>	<b>Number of ATEs</b>	<b>Number of Violations Issued</b>	<b>Number of Violations Collected</b>	<b>Base Cost per Violation</b>	<b>Vendor Revenue</b>	<b>Local Authority Revenue</b>
Cedar Rapids	FY 2016	28	154,323	85,495	\$ 75	\$ 2,081,622	\$ 4,447,377
Council Bluffs	FY 2016	12	18,887	12,890	100	614,200	709,009
Davenport	CY 2016	14	39,986	35,182	65	721,281	1,866,982
Des Moines	FY 2016	9	81,577	57,755	65	1,540,945	2,507,338
Fort Dodge	FY 2016	2	5,110	4,062	75	128,065	183,184
Muscatine	CY 2016	9	13,322	12,247	75	330,669	759,268
Polk County	FY2016	2	6,888	6,780	65	198,560	282,192
Sioux City	FY 2016	2	18,528	12,970	100	800,348	2,866,320
Windsor Heights*	CY 2016	1	n/a*	1,209	65	26,909	45,560
<b>Totals</b>		<b>79</b>	<b>338,621</b>	<b>228,590</b>		<b>\$ 6,442,599</b>	<b>\$13,667,230</b>

\* Incomplete data due to change of vendor  
Source: Local authorities

**Fiscal Impact**

- The DOT is currently unable to determine which existing ATEs will be allowed to remain under SF 196. Any devices or locations not approved by the Department may decrease revenue for local authorities. See **Table 1** for revenues by local authorities that may be impacted.
- Program expenditures for the Department are estimated to be \$125,000 per fiscal year. The total for each fiscal year includes \$85,000 in salary for one FTE position and \$40,000 in administrative expenses.

**Sources**

Iowa Department of Transportation  
Cedar Rapids City Manager's Office  
Council Bluffs Public Works  
Davenport Police Department  
Des Moines Government Relations

Fort Dodge Police Department  
Muscatine Finance Department  
Polk County Sheriff's Department  
Sioux City Police Department  
Windsor Heights Police Department

/s/ Holly M. Lyons

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The fiscal note for this bill was prepared pursuant to [Joint Rule 17](#) and the Iowa Code. Data used in developing this fiscal note is available from the Fiscal Services Division of the Legislative Services Agency upon request.